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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS  
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

State contest on egg recipes calls attention  
to abundance of eggs.

County planning committees work on ways to  
absorb returning veterans.

War food assistants help to expand food produc-  
tion and preservation.

Training school in streamlined housekeeping  
teaches saving of time and motion.

Canning workshops held for home-economics  
teachers and agents.

Seventy-five WAVES help to save asparagus  
crop when rain delays harvest.

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IOWA

June 20, 1944

Farm labor. - Recruiting of farm-labor volunteers in Iowa was concentrated into period from May 17 to June 3. Period opened with proclamation by Governor which was sent in mat form to all newspapers in State.

Results obtained in Winnebago County are typical. County organization canvassed all towns and recruited 131 men and boys and 48 women and girls to stand by for emergency calls to work on farms. In Leland, out of 150 population, 20 men and boys volunteered -- 10 for full-time work; 15 women and girls volunteered for full-time work.

Wet fields delayed spring planting, and farm-labor workers promoted community co-operation as never before, achieving fine results. Dallas Center, population 865, enrolled 18 businessmen as relief tractor operators. Farmers' requests for help listed acres of intertilled crops, labor available on farm, and extra help needed. All legitimate requests for relief help have been filled to date. Typical of volunteers was team of bankers and garage mechanics that worked 9 evenings from 5 to 11, running 2 tractors to plow and prepare 180 acres for corn planting between rains.

In another community, local showers delayed field work for 3 days. Farmers moved power machinery to south part of area and worked fields until their own were dry. Then their neighbors returned favor. All machines were kept rolling, despite rain.

When rains delayed asparagus harvest in Waterloo area, 75 WAVES volunteered to help save crop. Priest at parochial school took his pupils to asparagus fields and supervised their work.

Dairy production.- Campaign for more milk production is carried on jointly by extension dairy husbandry and dairy industry workers and creameries and dairy plants of Iowa. Brief production suggestions from dairy plants to producers accompany checks each 2 weeks. "Production yardstick" card to compare actual sales with standard, according to number of cows being milked, is sent to each producer three times a year, reaching 40,000 to 50,000 dairymen. Dozen mechanical cows with movable jaws and records giving dairy production suggestions are being circulated over State.

Three training courses for dairy herd-improvement association supervisors have been held this year; 49 associations are in operation.

Interest in artificial-breeding cooperatives is growing. Six organizations have been formed, and meetings to discuss problems and possibilities of such cooperatives have been held in at least 12 other counties.

During summer, extension workers will assist with classification field days in cooperation with Brown Swiss and Holstein Associations.

Post-war planning.- Present post-war planning is concerned almost entirely with how to absorb returning veterans and war workers into home communities. As this work progresses, planning for longer-time projects, such as improvement of rural schools, soil conservation, health and recreational facilities, and other problems will be taken up by different groups.

Post-war planning is being done by program-development committees, which will serve as educational advisory groups to returning veterans wishing to enter farming. In number of counties, Extension is cooperating with various town and community groups in planning for post-war period. In Hamilton County, county-wide set-up for town and rural people has been in operation for some time.

Iowa Extension Service is cooperating closely with Iowa Post-War Rehabilitation Commission, provided for by last Legislature. Cooperative leaflet for guidance of local planning groups is in preparation.

Victory Gardens.- County garden-planning conference, subject-matter meeting, or both were held in 85 counties. Program will be followed in 15 counties unable to schedule garden specialists. County garden-planning conferences were especially successful this year. Cooperation between defense and extension personnel in counties has been much closer.

Unprecedented heavy rains and floods throughout spring meant many gardens had to be replanted; early potatoes rotted in ground. Greatest loss in production has been in garden peas, which cannot be replanted. State survey last winter indicated 2 percent increase in number of gardens this year. However, present estimate is fewer gardens than last year. If floods and rains continue, figure will be further reduced.



Food preservation.- Fourteen war emergency food-preservation assistants have been trained to supplement staff of more than 70 county extension home economists this summer. Clinics and help with organization of community food-preservation centers have been more in demand for both rural and urban women and girls than demonstrations of canning and freezing methods. One of two war food assistants-at-large serves counties that have neither home economist nor food-preservation assistant; other works especially on organization of community food-preservation centers. Most of these involve cooperation of extension and civic clubs, Office of Civilian Defense, utility companies, and in two cities, frozen food lockers.

Rain damage that delayed many gardens throughout State may help to impress people with need for preserving food at home.

Program development.- County programs for 1944-45 are being approached this year through discussions with farm people. County program-planning committee discusses general problems and needs that must be met if farm people are to make greatest contributions to war. Then subcommittees or special committees study specific problems of home, youth, and agriculture, depending on type of farming area. Subject-matter specialists survey what they think will be common problems and outline help they can give committees to keep them up to date. In district meetings, field agents discuss problems brought out in counties. They also discuss these problems with subject-matter specialists to iron out details of program. They determine what is available and what is required to provide well-rounded educational program that meets farm family needs in best way possible.

MISSOURI  
May 15, 1944

War food assistants.- Most of money made available by W.F.A. for first six months of year is being used to provide extra help in county extension offices. Food-production assistants are employed in 33 counties, food-preservation assistants in 31, and additional clerical help in 75 counties. Production assistants have been placed in counties where possibilities for food production are greatest. Preservation assistants work in counties that do not have home demonstration agents or where extension programs are extremely heavy.

Extra help and additional printed matter available from W.F.A. funds have enabled most county offices to reach farm families oftener and in greater numbers. In Newton County, 4,875 contacts were made by direct mail in 1 month as result of extra assistance. Mailings included six different circulars and folders on following subjects: Seeding oats on lespedeza stubble, seeding sweetclover for pasture and soil improvement, saving labor by growing vegetables in long rows, neighborhood organization to control cattle grubs, planting crops on contour, and announcement of extension Victory Garden radio short course of 14 broadcasts.

Food preservation.- Home demonstration agents and war food preservation assistants report cooperation of home-economics extension clubs, church groups, parent-teacher associations, chambers of commerce, civic clubs, schools and teachers, O.C.D. leaders, and many 4-H Clubs in food-preservation work. In Clark County, where 17 women's groups and 288 families were reached by preservation assistant, several groups are holding meetings to study foods. All who attend are pledged to pass on to neighbors information they receive. Barton County held 11 canning clinics, attended by 171 persons.

Work experience in home canning was provided for home-economics teachers in series of canning workshops at 11 centers outside larger cities. State department of education sponsored workshops, and extension nutritionist served as director. In attendance were 222 home-economics teachers, home demonstration agents, Farm Security home supervisors, members of local college staffs, and senior home-economics majors. Similar workshops are being arranged for metropolitan centers of St. Louis and Kansas City.

Food-production broadcasts.- Broadcasts on gardening, fruit growing, and food preservation were given by extension specialists over two of State's large radio stations in 10-week series, during noon hour each Saturday. Those taking part were specialists in vegetable gardening, fruit growing, insect control, and food preservation. Scripts prepared for broadcasts were duplicated and used also by county agents at six additional stations.

Tomato improvement.- More efficient production of canning tomatoes and higher-quality commercial pack are goals of two-county, three-cannery campaign in north Missouri. Extension recently held series of meetings with growers for canneries at Milan, Humphreys, and Osgood, affecting production on some 600 acres. Railroad is again cooperating by supplying demonstrators with fertilizers recommended by college of agriculture.

Poultry management.- Missouri poultrymen are culling out low producers and replanning management methods to conserve feed supplies and increase efficiency. In Ste. Genevieve County, 17 producers went home from extension meetings and culled 3,840 birds from flocks in determined effort to reduce feed costs and retain best layers. Reports from 42 counties show 1,435 producers attended 64 meetings on poultry management during month. From State office, 100,000 copies of 4-page letter on good poultry management were distributed to counties for transmission to local mailing lists. Agents were also supplied with up-to-date analysis of price situation to prevent wholesale liquidation of flocks because of temporary discouragement.

Sheep and wool.- Farmers in Christian County, where sheep improvement is successful extension program of some year's standing, cite high percentage of thrifty lambs as proof that plan pays. C. T. Mitchell, near Garrison, reports saving 104 lambs out of 109 and gives credit to regular worming of flock. R. H. Little of Nixa has had similar experience, and he, too, drenches his sheep every 28 days. For past 2 years his lambs have brought extreme top of market for days he marketed them.

Series of district and county power shearing schools covered heavier sheep-growing sections of State. At all-day meetings, Australian method of shearing was demonstrated to county agents, experienced shearers, and older 4-H Club boys selected for training. From 20 to 50 sheep were sheared at each school by trainees under specialists' instruction. As many as four electric shearing machines were available for most of schools. Instruction was given also in tying fleeces, preparation, packaging, and marketing. Specialists discussed care of flock for production of quality wool and lambs and demonstrated drenching.

Beef-cattle production.- Improving efficiency of beef-cattle herds is receiving much attention. Agents and farmers from 15 counties in northeast Missouri attended district exhibit of registered Hereford bulls in Sullivan County. Bulls and their



get were run through ring and discussed as to economical production of type of calves feeders want. Similar district bull shows and beef-cow demonstrations were held in Butler, Barton, Pulaski, and Madison Counties, each drawing agents and farmers from 7 or 8 neighboring counties. At Extension-sponsored bull sales in several counties, about 200 registered Angus and Hereford bulls were distributed to owners of beef-cow herds.

Pastures.- Dallas County dairy farmers report saving much grain by pasturing wheat and Balbo rye seeded last fall. Hay and labor were saved too. J. W. Hill, near Buffalo, carried 82 head of livestock, mostly cattle, through winter with virtually no grain and very little hay by pasturing 55 acres of Balbo rye. Sweetclover also is showing its worth on many Dallas County farms. Rolla Duff, near Tunas, began pasturing second-year sweetclover third week in March.

Assistance in flooded areas.- During floods on Missouri and Osage Rivers, county agents and assistants worked in flooded areas helping get families and livestock to safety, supplementing levees with sandbags, saving feed and other essential materials, and giving counsel on plans for salvage and reconstruction. Highest floodwaters in century along Missouri River destroyed more than 125,000 acres of fall wheat and large acreages of alfalfa. Releases on crops for flooded lands were sent out, and every county agent was given up-to-date information on regular and early-maturing hybrid corn, soybean varieties for grain, soybeans for hay, sudan grass and sorghums for hay, pure sudan for pasture, and lespedeza for pasture. This was passed on to farmers, with advice on replanting.

4-H Club work.- Eleven district conferences attended by 104 county agents, 92 home demonstration agents, and their assistants, were held to prepare agents for giving utmost aid to 4-H Club leaders this year. Attention was centered on getting job done in production and conservation of food with boys and girls enrolled in these projects.

St. Francois County agents report having 1,200 4-H Club members, four-fifths of whom are in tomato project. In 1 week more than 800 dozen tomato plants and 1,500 pounds of fertilizer were distributed to club members.

OHIO  
June 14, 1944

Poultry husbandry.- Hardy men are required to continue poultry extension work in face of egg-marketing situation. Efforts are concentrated on getting eggs consumed or at least moved from poultry farms. Container and storage shortages complicated all efforts. State contest on egg recipes was organized to attract public attention to abundance of eggs and multitude of ways of cooking them.

Emergency farm labor.- Groups of Jamaicans have been placed where most needed. Considerable number of Mexican beet workers have been available for other farm work. Plans are completed for establishment of four camps for urban women volunteering for farm work.

Farm machinery.- Haymaking machinery, repaired and ready for operation, is going into fields, in many cases to cut legumes and grass for silage--method recommended as conserving both feed and time. Buck rakes have become common labor saver in hayfields. Plans have been made for combine operator-training schools, and more calls are coming in for these schools than can be met.

Farm marketing.- Market information is being supplied to livestock men to induce more orderly marketing, especially of hogs. "Hot spots" in milk marketing were brought to public attention by city newspaper investigations of milk dumping. Meetings with dairymen and better attitude of reporters of processing plants eased this situation. Publicity has been given soybean and wheat ceiling prices.

Animal husbandry.- Major drive is being made to establish county dairy service units to give help on production and marketing at nominal cost to dairymen. Rural-economics extension specialists are cooperating in project. Livestock specialists continue emphasis on need to adjust herds and flocks to probable feed supply. Fullest use of pasture is advocated to save grains. Parasite and disease control is urged to hold down death losses.

Horticulture.- Chief problem has been to persuade fruit growers to anticipate harvesting labor far enough in advance so that demands can be met. Strawberry production has been reduced considerably in 1944 because growers expected labor shortages and did not set plants in 1943. State has promise of good fruit crop and tough job in getting it harvested.

Agronomy.- Selection of best possible plant varieties and cultural methods is being stressed to hold up production with less acreage and labor. Availability and best uses of fertilizer are publicized, along with need to accept deliveries of both lime and fertilizer as they can be made. Corn growers and orchardmen have been urged to use nitrates when they became available after usual application dates. All available means are being used to inform farmers of urgent need for legume seed production.

Farm forestry.- Meetings of farmers and millmen have been held to promote increased production of lumber and pulpwood. Marketing information is furnished farmers who have timber to sell.

Farm management.- Continued assistance is being given in farm accounting and distribution of information on Federal regulations affecting farm management. "Timely Economic Information" goes to mailing list of 10,000, and digest of special economic information is prepared for use of county extension agents.

Victory Gardens.- Special gardening features have been sent regularly to daily and weekly papers and broadcast through personal appearances and transcriptions.

Beekeeping.- Apiarists are being informed of need for increased production of clover seed and asked to rent colonies for placement in seed-producing sections.

Disease and insect control.- Spray information service is being broadcast from three radio stations giving complete State coverage. Spray letter is sent to large mailing list kept in county extension offices.